

1-29. A method of operating a file server, said method comprising the steps of :

receiving a request for a file;

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determining if the request includes a received identification signal identifying an originating file from which said request originated;

comparing any said received identification signal with one or more predetermined identification signals; and

deciding which file, if any, is to be supplied in dependence upon said determining and comparing steps, and if in the deciding step it is decided that a file is to be supplied, supplying said file.

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30. A method as in claim 29 wherein said supplied file is supplied only if any said identification signal matches a said predetermined identification signal.

31. A method as in claim 29 wherein said supplied file is the same file as requested.

32. A method as in claim 29 wherein if any said identification signal does not match a said predetermined identification signal, said supplied file is not the same file as requested.

33. A method as in claim 29 including using a look up table which contains said one or more predetermined identification signals and which identifies at least one file which can be supplied in accordance with a predetermined identification signal.

34. A method as in claim ~~29~~ wherein said deciding step further comprises generating said supplied file.

35. A method as in claim ~~29~~ wherein said request conforms to a hypertext transfer protocol.

36. A method as in claim ~~35~~ wherein said received identification signal includes a universal resource location address for said origination from which the request originated.

37. A method as in claim ~~29~~ in which said file server is connected to the internet and wherein said request is received via the internet.

38. A file server comprising:

receiving means for receiving a file request;

determining means for determining if the file request includes an identification signal identifying an originating file from which said file request originated;

comparison means for comparing any said identification signal with at least one predetermined identification signals;

decision means responsive to said determining means and to said comparison means for deciding which file, if any, is to be supplied; and

an output means for supplying a file if said decision means decides that a file is to be supplied.

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39. A file server as in claim 38 wherein said decision means is adapted to decide that a file is to be supplied only if said identification signal matches a predetermined identification signal.

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40. A file server as in claim 38 wherein said decision means is adapted to decide that the file requested is to be supplied if said identification signal matches a predetermined identification signal.

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41. A file server as in claim 38 wherein if said identification signal does not match a predetermined identification signal, a file other than that which was requested is supplied.

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42. A file server as in claim 38 further comprising storage means for storing a look-up table containing said predetermined identification signals, said look-up table identifying at least one file which can be supplied in accordance with a predetermined identification signal.

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43. A file server as in claim 38 wherein said deciding means further comprises generating means for generating a file to be supplied.

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44. A file server as in claim 38 wherein the receiving means is adapted to receive file requests conforming to a hypertext transfer protocol.

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45. A file server as in claim 44 wherein said identification signal and said predetermined identification signal include a universal resource address location for said originating file from which said file request originated.

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A file server as in claim 38 in which said file server is connected to the internet
and wherein said receiving means is adapted to receive said file request via the internet.--

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